

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In amended FIG. 4, “3rd Filter Criterion C” has been corrected to “2nd Filter Criterion C.”

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 10 and 12 are amended herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Publication No. US 2005/0278741 to Robarts et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Robarts”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because Robarts fails to anticipate the rejected claims.

With respect to claim 1, Robarts does not disclose simultaneously displaying: a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter; a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter; and at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria.

Rather, in Robarts, user interface EPG UI 170 displays several “predefined” query buttons 202-212. For example, predefined query button 206 of Robarts corresponds to the single genre of “Comedies.” Once the user selects the “Comedies” query button, the user cannot select among other genres because the query button is predefined to search for comedies. Because the query buttons are predefined, and because the user cannot select more than one of the predefined query buttons, EPG UI 170 of Roberts does not disclose a first or second plurality of user selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, find windows 220 and 240 of Robarts, as shown in Figures 7 and 9, display only a single query criterion corresponding to each filter criterion. For example, find window 220 shows a single filter criterion “Action” in sub genre box 220, and a single filter criterion “<all networks>” in network box 228. According to Robarts, a user may select among other sub

genres in sub genre box 220, or a user may select among other networks in network box 228. However, all of the possible sub genres and all of the available networks cannot simultaneously be displayed along with the results of the queries. Therefore, the find windows of Robarts do not simultaneously display first and second pluralities of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria along with characterizing descriptors that correspond to the present setting of the first and second pluralities of user selectable filter criteria.

Although Paragraphs [0098] and [0101] and Figures 9, 10, 12, and 13 of Robarts disclose the use of queries to narrow program selection, they do not describe simultaneously displaying first and second pluralities of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria along with characterizing descriptors that correspond to the present setting of the first and second pluralities of user selectable filter criteria as recited in claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claim 1 is allowable over Robarts.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons presented above.

Claim 8 is allowable for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a method wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device. Robarts discloses remote control handset 68, but Robarts does not disclose that remote control handset 68 can be used to select first and second filter criteria. Thus it is respectfully asserted that claim 8 is allowable over Robarts for this additional reason.

Claim 9 is allowable for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a method wherein the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria is selected in response to a remote control device by scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria. Rather than scrolling, Robarts discloses punching a numerical keypad (see paragraphs [0024] and [0106]) to enter data one digit at a time or pull-down menus (see Figures

7 and 8). Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claim 9 is allowable over Robarts for this additional reason.

Claim 10, as amended, is allowable over Robarts because Robarts does not disclose control circuitry that simultaneously displays: a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter; a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter; and at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Robarts does not disclose a guide in which first and second pluralities of user selectable characterizing filter criteria are simultaneously displayed along with characterizing descriptors that correspond to the present setting of the first and second pluralities of user selectable filter criteria. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claim 10 is allowable over Robarts for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Robarts.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 10.

Claim 11 is allowable over Robarts for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a remote control device for selecting the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria. As discussed above with respect to claim 8, Robarts does not disclose that remote control handset 68 can be used to select the present setting of first and second filter criteria. Thus it is respectfully asserted that claim 11 is allowable for the same reason that claim 8 is allowable over Robarts.

Claim 12 , as amended, is allowable over Robarts because Robarts does not disclose control circuitry that simultaneously displays: a first plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the first characterizing descriptor filter; a second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as corresponds to the second characterizing descriptor filter; and at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as

corresponds to a present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria. As discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 10, Robarts does not disclose a guide in which first and second pluralities of user selectable characterizing filter criteria are simultaneously displayed along with characterizing descriptors that correspond to the present setting of the first and second pluralities of user selectable filter criteria. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claim 10 is allowable over Robarts for the same reasons that claims 1 and 10 are allowable over Robarts.

Claims 13-17 depend from claim 12 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 12.

Claim 13 is allowable over Robarts for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a remote control device for selecting the present setting of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria. As discussed above with respect to claims 8 and 11, Robarts does not disclose that remote control handset 68 can be used to select the present setting of first and second filter criteria. Thus it is respectfully asserted that claim 13 is allowable for the same reason that claims 8 and 11 are allowable over Robarts.

Claim 14 is allowable over Robarts for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a remote control device that comprises at least one key for scrolling through candidate settings of the first and second plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria as discussed above with respect to claim 9. Thus, for the same reason discussed above with respect to claim 9, it is respectfully asserted that claim 14 is allowable over Robarts for this additional reason.

Claim 15 is allowable over Robarts for the additional reason that Robarts does not disclose a remote control device that comprises at least one key for moving a focus from one characterizing descriptor filter to another characterizing descriptor filter. The Office Action asserts that Robarts discloses this feature at paragraph [0070]. However, the focus frame 186 discussed in paragraph [0070] of Robarts is used as a graphical overlay to EPG UI 170 to select a desired program. (See paragraph [0070]) EPG UI 170 does not display multiple characterizing

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descriptor filters. Therefore Robarts does not disclose that remote control handset 68 comprises a key to move a focus frame from one characterizing filter to another characterizing filter. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claim 15 is allowable over Robarts for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully requested,

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